Brief Bio and (PR)$^2$: Problems & Pitches – Rants & Raves by Adam Simpson

I was brought into the CNS team in July, 2012 as a Web Development intern. Since then, I have worked on some really great projects with the rest of the team. I joined with almost no experience outside of classwork and a few side projects. But my time at CNS has really let me build my hard skills, while making think critically about theories and concepts.

Education
B.S. Informatics w/ cognate in Telecommunications
Minoring in Telecommunications Applications and Computer Science

General Questions

1. Do you consider yourself a developer, user, creator, system evangelist, etc.?
   Developer.

2. What are your main interests in attending the workshop?
   Understanding who is using our tools and what we could improve to get more users.

3. What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop?
   While most of our new features are still in development, it would be great to get some feedback from the community.

4. What are the tools or services you would like to share at the workshop?
   The goals and progress of our new web-based approach and the future of CIShell.

5. Please list three features or functions of your tools or services that are most important for users.
   Ease of use
   Compatibility
   Comprehensiveness

6. What are your major concerns for the software architecture of these tools / services?
   We are a small team trying to keep all of our users happy across many different platforms and systems. We have a lot of different users with a lot of different needs on a lot of different platforms. It's an overwhelming amount to keep up with while also juggling with many new specialized tools in development.

7. What are some underserved user needs that your systems, idealized versions, or an ecosystem that your systems are integral components of could address?
   We are struggling to keep up with platform dependencies and maintaining existing features.

8. Are you or your group working on any of these challenges? If yes, please explain.
   Moving to a web-based environment will solve most of the platform dependency issues. If we are vigilant in defining what we and our users want/need, we can slowly bring our services into this century.
9. “Big data” and “cloud computing” get thrown around a lot as terms. How do these concepts and your, your group’s and your users’ interpretation and understanding of them affect your plans for development?

We want to support big data, and do so in a "cloud" environment. But with all of the recent issues (iCloud hacks, health care data leaks, etc), there is a growing stigma of releasing sensitive data on the "cloud". This could be a major issue for potential users. We need to stress about security to make sure our users don't have to.